

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

AID-05 /070 W

----- 130380

R 110940Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8786

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR KS CB

SUBJECT: REACTION TO CAMBODIAN SITUATION

REF SEOUL 1335

1. ROK PRESS AND OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO EXPRESS CONCERN WITH DETERIORATING SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. NEWS REPORTING INCLUDES EXTENSIVE AND DETAILED COVERAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS THERE, WITH EMPHASIS ON USG RESPONSE, INCLUDING MARCH 6 COMMENTS ON SITUATION BY PRESIDENT FORD.
2. EXTENSIVE EDITORIAL REACTION CONTINUES TO PORTRAY CAMBODIA AS TEST OF AMERICAN WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO AID ITS ALLIES. GOVERNMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE KOREA HERALD MARCH 8 SAW COMMUNIST OBJECTIVES IN CAMBODIA AS "WEIGHING THE AMERICAN WILL TO DEFEND THE GOVERNMENT OF ITS ALLY. HOW THIS TEST OF WILL TURNS OUT WILL HAVE IMPLICATIONS THAT WILL BE FELT BEYOND THE CAMBODIAN BORDER." OFFICIAL SEOUL SHINMUN WROTE THAT FALL OF LON NOL REGIME "WILL AFFECT NOT ONLY ASIAN NATIONS BUT THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE...USG MUST REMEMBER THAT IT IS DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE CREDIBILITY OF USG FOR ALL ALLIES."
3. IN SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VEIN, TONGA ILBO MARCH 4 DREW

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DISTINCTION BETWEEN KHMER AND KOREAN SITUATIONS,

WRITING THAT "USG MUST UNDERSTAND THAT SECURITY AND PEACE OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT OF INDOCHINA BECAUSE IT IS AN OUTPOST OF FAR EAST STRATEGY FOR US AND JAPAN." TONGA IN SAME EDITORIAL NOTED THAT US POLICY IN CAMBODIA MIGHT HAVE BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL HAD IT BEEN AIMED AT RAISING LIVING STANDARDS OF PEOPLE RATHER THAN SUPPORTING PARTICULAR REGIME. OTHER PAPERS, NEARLY RESIGNED TO FALL OF GKR THROUGH USG "AMBIGUITY" AND US CONGRESS "DILLYDALLYING", ALSO POINT HOPEFULLY TO FACT THAT ROK IS OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE TO US BUT REMAIN NONETHELESS APPREHENSIVE OVER USG ABILITY TO FULFILL COMMITMENTS TO ITS FRIENDS.

4. PRESS MARCH 11 REPORTED THAT PRIME MINISTER KIM HAD MET WITH VISITING CONGRESSMAN WIGGINS AND EXPRESSED HOPE TO HIM THAT "CONGRESS WILL MAKE A WISE DECISION ON US AID TO CAMBODIA, LEST FREE ASIAN COUNTRIES DOUBT US COMMITMENT TO THEIR DEFENSE." OTHER ROK OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN MAKING SAME POINT TO CODEL IN CONVERSATIONS HERE.  
SNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, COMBAT OPERATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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